



Tennessee Regulatory Authority

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Reineke Joins TRA Staff

Nashville, Tennessee – The Tennessee Regulatory Authority (TRA) today announced that Mark Reineke, former commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development, will serve as Senior Policy Advisor to TRA Director Deborah Taylor Tate.

Reineke joined state government in 1997 and worked as General Counsel in the Department of Labor for several years. He has also worked as a staff attorney for the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance. Reineke holds a degree in economics from the University of the South, and a J.D. from the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University. He is married with three children.

“We are fortunate to have someone with Mark’s management, legal and economic expertise, especially as we face critical issues affecting telecommunications and other utility industries,” said Director Tate.

The TRA also announced that Mary Ellen Tate will serve as Executive Administrative Assistant to Director Tate. Mary Ellen, an executive assistant with more than 20 years of professional experience in, among other areas, government, banking and economic development, most recently served as the Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff in the Office of the Governor.

“Mary Ellen brings a wealth of government and private sector experience to this job and I value her organizational skills in order to help make our office more efficient and responsive to the consumers,” added Director Tate.

Prior to her role in the State Capitol, she served for 18 years in the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development in various administrative and assistantship positions. Mary Ellen, a native of Nashville, is a graduate of David Lipscomb University. She has one son.

“Mark and Mary Ellen both bring a tremendous level of experience and competency to the agency,” said Director Tate. “We are extremely pleased to have them as a part of our team.”

The Tennessee Regulatory Authority provides regulatory oversight to Tennessee’s investor-owned public utilities. The agency’s jurisdiction includes approximately 1200

utility providers including the intrastate transmission of natural gas. The agency's mission is to promote the public interest by balancing the interests of utility consumers and providers while facilitating the transition to a more competitive environment. For more information, visit www.state.tn.us/tra.

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